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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-2110

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The Honorable Jose Guillermo Castillo
Ambassador of Guatemala to the United States
2220 R Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Castillo:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today with respect to your Government's plan to suspend intercountry adoptions.

As you know, we share the same goal: to ensure that adoptions from Guatemala are carried out in a safe, legal, and transparent manner that is beneficial to the children, the adoptive parents, and the birth parents. To that end, we have both worked tirelessly to ensure that our respective countries fully implemented the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption.

As you are also well aware, I have great respect for Guatemala's sovereignty and the right of your country to make determinations with respect to the future of Guatemalan children. However, I ask that you relay to your Government my strong and sincere request that the children currently in the adoption process be "grandfathered in" when the suspension takes effect on January 1, 2008, and that the families who have already filed their paperwork be allowed to complete the adoption process. As many as 3,000 pending adoption cases could be affected by the proposed suspension. It is my profound hope that these children will not be prevented from being placed with an appropriate U.S. family.

As an adoptive parent myself, I can personally relate and attest to the struggle and heartache these families are going through. Any clarification you could provide regarding this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank for your continued attention to this matter. Please accept my best wishes, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



William D. Delahunt